

# EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

## *North Hempstead, NY*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

**EPA's** Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the Town of North Hempstead for a Brownfields Pilot. North Hempstead, located adjacent to the borough of Queens on Long Island, contains the Hamlet of New Cassel at its southeast tip. New Cassel's 10,257 residents are mostly minorities: 66 percent African-American; 23.5 percent Hispanic, 4 percent Native American, and 6 percent other minorities. Additionally, 9 percent of the residents live in poverty and 34 percent have no high school diploma. Many of these residents live in a federally designated poverty tract surrounded by brownfields that includes a 170-acre area containing at least 17 brownfields, which comprise nearly one-fifth of New Cassel's land.

To help improve these environmental conditions, minimize criminal activity, and revitalize the community, New Cassel's leaders developed the New Cassel Environmental Justice Project in 1995, and in 1998, a U.S. Department of Justice Weed and Seed designation was secured. These initiatives have already shown positive results—drug arrests dropped 21 percent from 1998 to 1999 and local residents have been involved in revitalization efforts at more than 100 community meetings.

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*North Hempstead, NY*

**Date of Announcement:**  
May 2000

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Profile:** The Pilot plans to conduct environmental assessments on up to eight brownfields in the Hamlet of New Cassel.

#### Contacts:

Department of Planning  
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(516) 869-7754

Regional Brownfields Team  
U.S. EPA - Region 2  
(212) 637-4314

Visit the EPA Region 2 Brownfields web site at:  
<http://www.epa.gov/r02earth/superfnd/brownfld/bfmainpg.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:

<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

## OBJECTIVES

The goal of the North Hempstead Pilot is to prioritize and conduct environmental assessments at up to eight brownfields sites in the Hamlet of New Cassel. Through this Pilot, New Cassel will establish its own brownfields program with the objectives of assessing, cleaning up, and redeveloping brownfields into environmentally friendly and sustainable businesses, creating new jobs, and increasing recreational and affordable housing opportunities for residents. The Pilot will also conduct community outreach activities, including establishing a working group and holding community meetings.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of the Pilot include:

- Establishing a New Cassel Brownfields and Community Revitalization Program;
- Convening a working group of community members to guide Pilot activities;
- Prioritizing eight brownfields properties in New Cassel for assessment;
- Performing Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments on up to eight priority sites;
- Educating community stakeholders about the priority sites through a community workshop; and
- Involving community members in environmental assessment activities.

*The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.*